FACILITATING INSTANT MESSAGING OUTSIDE OF USER-DEFINED BUDDY GROUP IN A WIRELESS AND NON-WIRELESS ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

A method, system and computer program product for instant message communication in a wireless and non-wireless environment. The invented system includes an apparatus that facilitates conversation with individuals not included in the

10 user's buddy group, non-buddies. The system includes at least one additional routing code reserved for conversing with non-buddies. The first time during a user session that the system receives a message originating from or destined for a non-buddy, before routing the message, the non-buddy's personal identifier is associated with one of the reserved routing codes. The mobile user can then reply to the message

15 using the same automated 'reply' function available for replies to buddies. The non-buddy routing code assignment is only for the duration of a user session. When the mobile user signs off from the system, the routing code becomes available for reassignment.